HAF comics

03

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BONUS
DIGITAL EDITION
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STAR WARS

DUEL OF THE FATES

Duel of the Fates #3 pg 01 Winegarner 2020

RESISTANCE BASE, KORILEV.

AS YOU KNOW, THE FIRST ORDER HAS SILENCED COMMUNICATION BETWEEN ALL NEIGHBORING SYSTEMS.

THE SOURCE OF THE BLOCKADE IS A TRANSMISSION JAMMER DEEP IN THE FIRST ORDER CAPITOL ON CORUSCANT, HERE.

SO FAR WE'VE BEEN UNABLE TO FIND A WEAKNESS. NO THERMAL EXHAUST PORT, NO OSCILLATOR.

IN OTHER WORDS, THEY'RE ONTO US.

OUR FORCES ARE TOO DEPLETED TO MOUNT A DIRECT ASSAULT, BUT WE FOUND AN ALTERNATIVE.

AN ANALOG SYSTEM, FROM THE DAYS OF THE OLD REPUBLIC.

A SMALL TEAM WILL ACTIVATE THE BEACON AND SUMMON THE GALAXY TO WAR.

THE HOLO DISSIPATES TO MAKE WAY FOR A FAMILIAR, FIVE-SPIRED BUILDING:

THE JEDI TEMPLE!

WHEN THEY SUCCEED...

THE REST OF US WILL BE READY.

Duel of the Fates #3 pg. 2

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I'LL LEAD THE TEAM, GENERAL.

I'LL LEAD THE TEAM, GENERAL, BUT I'LL LET HIM THINK HE'S DOING IT.

REY?

THEY'RE LOOKING FOR ME, ITS DANGEROUS ENOUGH AS IT IS.

I CAN'T GO WITH YOU.

PREPARE TO EVACUATE. WE'LL RECONVENE AT THE RENDEZVOUS POINT.

CORUSCANT? FINALLY, A GOOD IDEA FROM THOSE SCRAMBLED CIRCUITS OF YOURS. CORUSCANT WILL BE QUITE PLEASANT THIS TIME OF YEAR.

YES, A PROPERLY REFINED CITY WILL BE WELCOME AFTER HOVELING DOWN HERE LIKE A GUNDARK.

BEEP!

LATER, POE CATCHES UP WITH REY IN THE CORRIDOR.

HEY. WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?

I *HAVE* TO BRING AN END TO ALL THIS. I *HAVE* TO CONFRONT HIM.

MMM HMM. YOU'RE JUST GONNA "CONFRONT HIM"? WHO TALKS LIKE THAT?

JEDI DO.

I'M NEW TO THIS.

OKAY, I'M COMING WITH YOU.
NO. I HAVE TO GO ALONE.
WHERE IS THIS CONFRONTATION GOING TO HAPPEN?
MORTIS.
AND HOW DO YOU PLAN ON FINDING A MYTH?
I'LL ... FIGURE IT OUT.
HEY LOOK, I KNOW YOU THINK I'M WASTED AIR ON ANY MISSION, MASTER JEDI--
PLEASE, STOP CALLING ME THAT.
--BUT THE THING IS, I KNOW SOME-ONE WHO CAN FIND THE SYSTEM YOU'RE LOOKING FOR.
IF IT'S ONE OF YOUR FLIGHT ACADEMY FRIENDS, I SWEAR--
IT'S NOT ONE OF THOSE GUYS. BUT THOSE ARE GREAT GUYS.
--BECAUSE THEY'RE UNRELIABLE AT BEST. AND I'M BEING NICE.
SHE'S A NAVIGATOR, LIVES ON BONADAN.
FORCE SENSITIVE, LIKE YOU.
SPICE DIGGERS USED TO PAY HER TO FIND DEPOSITS ON ASTEROIDS.
DO YOU TRUST HER?
SHE'S A LITTLE OFF, BUT IF MORTIS EXISTS, SHE CAN FIND IT.

HEY, I GET IT. NO ATTACHMENTS, JEDI PATH.

I'VE READ THAT STORY, TOO. BUT...

I'M JUST SAYING YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS ALONE.

LEIA NOTICES REY AND POE IN THE CORRIDOR.

SHE RECOGNIZES THE ROMANTIC TENSION.

NEARBY, FINN TIGHTENS A BOLT ON A GRAPPLING CANNON.

BUT HIS HAND SHAKES.

HEY, IT'S OKAY.

ONE OF THE STORMTROOPERS ON KHAT. I KNEW HIM. WE TRAINED TOGETHER WHEN WE WERE KIDS.

HE LOOKED SO SCARED.

I REMEMBER THAT FEELING.

I DON'T THINK THAT FEELING EVER GOES AWAY.

I *CAN'T* LET MORE OF THEM END UP LIKE ME.

IT *HAS* TO STOP.

THAT'S WHAT WE'RE FIGHTING FOR.

CORUSCANT.
KYLO REN'S CHAMBER.
I UNDER-STAND YOU NOW, GRANDFATHER.
YOUR PAIN.
KYLO GRABS VADER'S MASK AND EXITS ONTO HIS BALCONY.
YOU ALLOWED LOVE TO CLOUD YOUR JUDG-MENT.
I WILL SUCCEED WHERE YOU FAILED.
HE THROWS VADER'S MASK A THOUSAND FEET DOWN INTO THE CITY.

VX-20, SET A COURSE FOR REMNICORE.

THE DRONE SETTLES INTO A DATA DOCK OVER KYLO'S SHOULDER.

GOOD RIDDANCE.

COMMANDER SELLIK APPROACHES.

SIR, ONE OF OUR PROBES PICKED UP THE DROID'S SIGNAL. WE'VE FOUND THEM!

READY MY SHIP, I WANT TO WITNESS THEIR EXTINCTION MYSELF.

SHALL I INFORM THE SUPREME LEADER?

NO. LET KYLO AND THE GIRL FULFILL THE EMPTY PROMISES OF THEIR ANCIENT RELIGION.

IN THE END THEY'LL DESTROY EACH OTHER, AS JEDI AND SITH ALWAYS HAVE.

THEN WE WILL RISE.

STRONG, DECISIVE.

READY TO BRING TRUE ORDER TO THE GALAXY.

PREPARE THE ATTACK.

RESISTANCE BASE.

ROSE AND FINN LOAD UP THE ***PHANTOM HAWK***, ROSE'S JUNKY BUT RELIABLE SHIP.

THIS IS A CORELLIAN HYPERDRIVE.

R2, DO WE HAVE A KEYCODE FOR THIS?

R2 FINDS A MATCH.

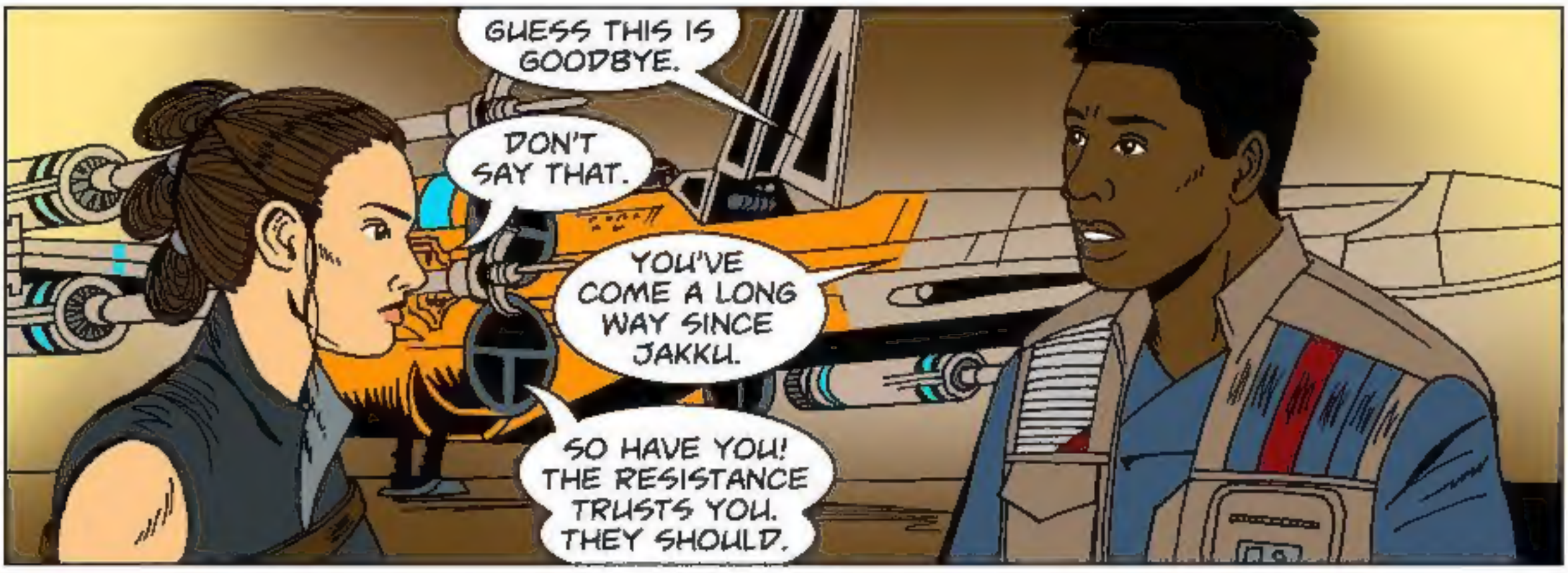
THAT'S EVERY HYPER-DRIVE KEY IN THE OLD IMPERIAL FLEET.

R2, WHERE DID YOU GET THOSE?

I ***TOLD*** YOU TO ERASE THE DATA FROM BESPIN'S CENTRAL COMPUTER.

YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE IT'S BEEN.

FINN LOOKS PAST C-3PO TO REY, LOADING UP THE FALCON WITH POE AND CHEWIE.

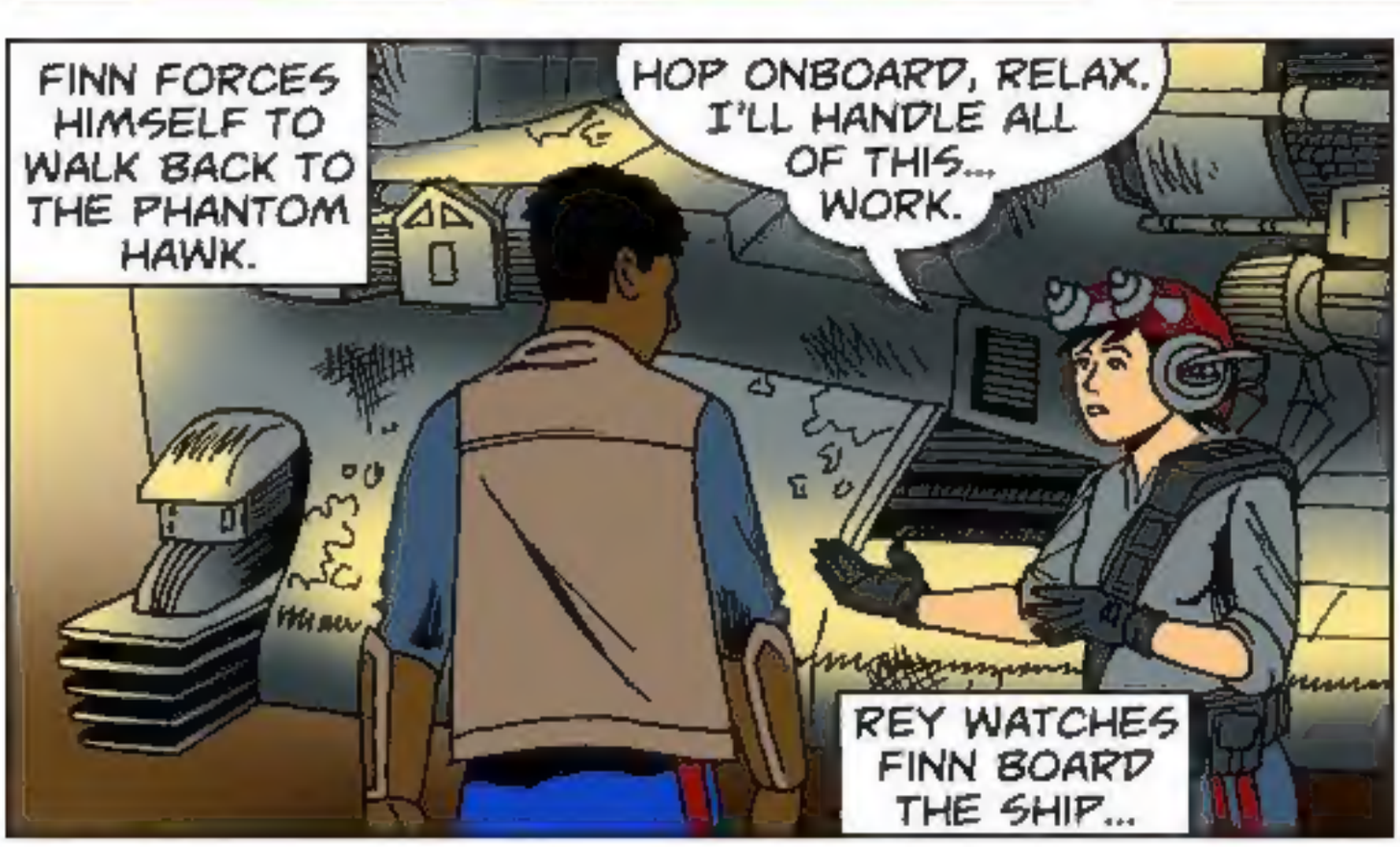

GUESS THIS IS GOODBYE.
DON'T SAY THAT.
YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY SINCE JAKKU.
SO HAVE YOU! THE RESISTANCE TRUSTS YOU. THEY SHOULD.

WHEN THEY HUG, THEY SAY NOTHING, BUT IT MEANS EVERYTHING.

POE WALKS UP...
WE SHOULD GET OUTTA HERE BEFORE --
OH, I, UH...

FINN PULLS POE INTO THE HUG.

TAKE CARE OF HIM, REY.
I WILL.


FINN FORCES HIMSELF TO WALK BACK TO THE PHANTOM HAWK.
HOP ONBOARD, RELAX. I'LL HANDLE ALL OF THIS... WORK.
REY WATCHES FINN BOARD THE SHIP...

... NOTHING BUT LOVE FOR HER FRIEND.
BEYOND THE PHANTOM HAWK, LEIA APPROACHES.

LEIA, I CAN SAVE YOUR SON.

I BELIEVED THAT ONCE, LIKE YOU.

THERE'S GOOD IN HIM.

THERE'S GOOD IN ALL OF US. BUT THE BOY I KNEW IS GONE.

REY, BE CAREFUL.

MASTER LUKE TRAINED ME WELL.

SOME THINGS YOU CAN'T TRAIN FOR.

LEIA MOTIONS FOR REY TO LOOK. SHE FOLLOWS LEIA'S EYES TO POE.

I DON'T-- WHAT?

COME ON. I KNOW HOW COMPLICATED THIS IS.

I CAN'T. THERE ARE JEDI RULES.

WRITTEN BY WHO? SOME OLD MAN, A THOUSAND YEARS BEFORE YOU WERE BORN.

MY WHOLE LIFE, I HEARD ONE WORD: ***BALANCE.***

I NEVER REALLY UNDERSTOOD WHAT IT MEANT UNTIL THE FIRST TIME I SAW YOU.

I HEARD THAT WORD AGAIN, LIKE IT WAS WHISPERED TO ME. ***BALANCE.***

YOU'RE NOT LIKE MY FATHER OR MY BROTHER.

YOU'RE ***NEW.***

WHATEVER HAPPENS, REMEMBER: THE FORCE CHOSE ***YOU,*** REY.

YOUR STORY ISN'T WRITTEN BY ANYONE ELSE.

A MASSIVE BLAST SHAKES THE MOUNTAIN.

ALARMS BLARE.

GENERAL ORGANA, RESURGENT CLASS STAR DESTROYER DETECTED!

BOOM!!!

THE FINALIZER AND TWO FLANKING DESTROYERS BEAR DOWN ON KORILEV.

WE'RE TAKING FIRE!

DECIMATE ANY SHIPS LEAVING THE PLANET!

CHARGE THE PRIMARY WEAPON!

RESISTANCE PILOTS RUN FOR THEIR SHIPS.

ALL PERSONNEL AND CRAFT TO RENDEZVOUS POINT CRIMSON.

EMERGENCY EVAC.

ROUTE ALL UNARMORED TRANSPORTS TO THE ECLIPSE.

IT'S OUR ONLY WAY OUT.

RAWWR!!!
I KNOW, I KNOW. YOUR SEAT.
CAN WE TALK ABOUT THIS LATER, CHEWIE?

GOOD LUCK, REY.

YOU, TOO, FINN.
LASER BLASTS POUND THE MOUNTAIN FROM ABOVE, RELENTLESS.

THE ECLIPSE RISES FROM ITS HIDDEN CANYON.

ECLIPSE STAR DESTROYER BRIDGE.

LEIA TAKES COMMAND POSITION ON THE BRIDGE, NOW FULLY MANNED BY RESISTANCE PERSONNEL.

SHIELDS ARE AT 8%, GENERAL.

WE CAN'T WAIT ANY LONGER.

THE ECLIPSE MAKES THE JUMP TO LIGHTSPEED.

PRIMARY WEAPON CHARGED, CHANCELLOR.

FIRE!

ONBOARD THE PHANTOM HAWK, ROSE CALCULATES THE JUMP.

THE FINALIZER'S SUPERLASER FINALLY CRACKS THE RESISTANCE BASE SHIELDS.

THE ENTIRE PLANET EXPLODES IN HELLFIRE.

BADA-BOOM!!!

RAWRR!!

MOUNTAINOUS CHUNKS OF SPACE ROCK SPIN AWAY FROM THE PLANET.

I KNOW!

WE CAN'T MAKE THE JUMP WITH ALL THIS DEBRIS.

NEITHER CAN THAT DESTROYER.

A FAMILIAR SHIP ENTERS FRAME IN BLAZING PURSUIT.

THE DARK AND JAGGED *KNIFE 9!*

HATTASKA REN FLOATS IN AN ELECTRO-OXYGEN CHAMBER.

JAEDEC SITS AT THE HELM.

OTT AND LORL FLANK HIM IN GUNCHAIRS.

THE KNIFE 9 UNLOADS WAVES OF BLASTERFIRE ON THE FALCON!

WHO THE HELL IS THIS?

LET *ME* FLY.

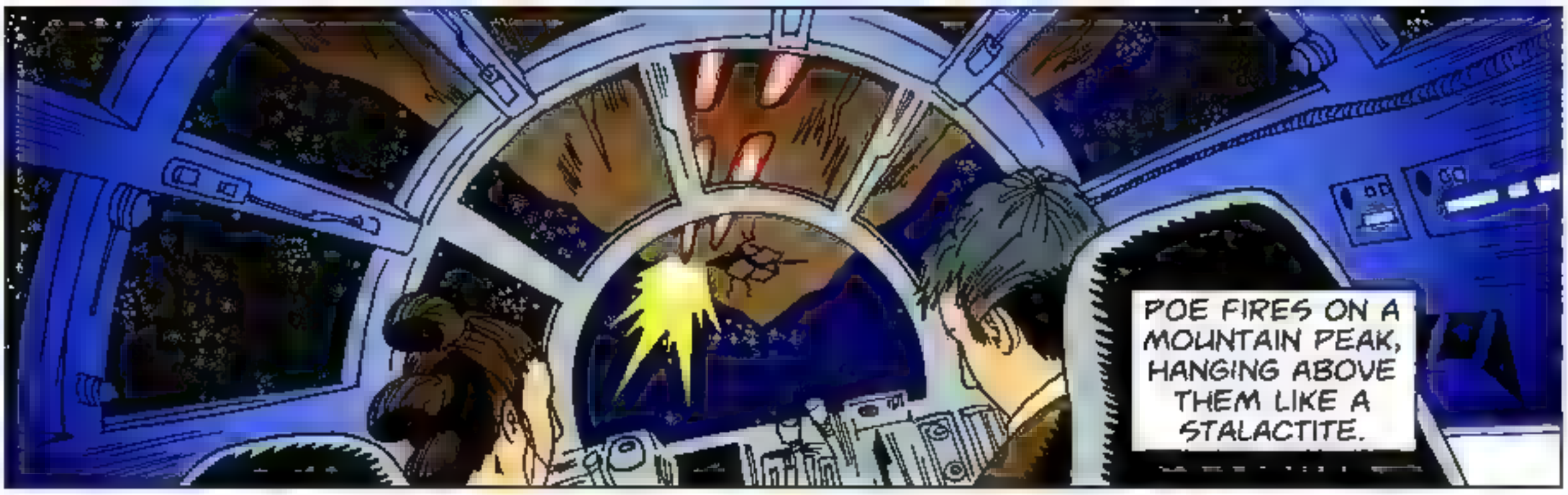
I'VE GOT THE YOKE! *MY* YOKE.

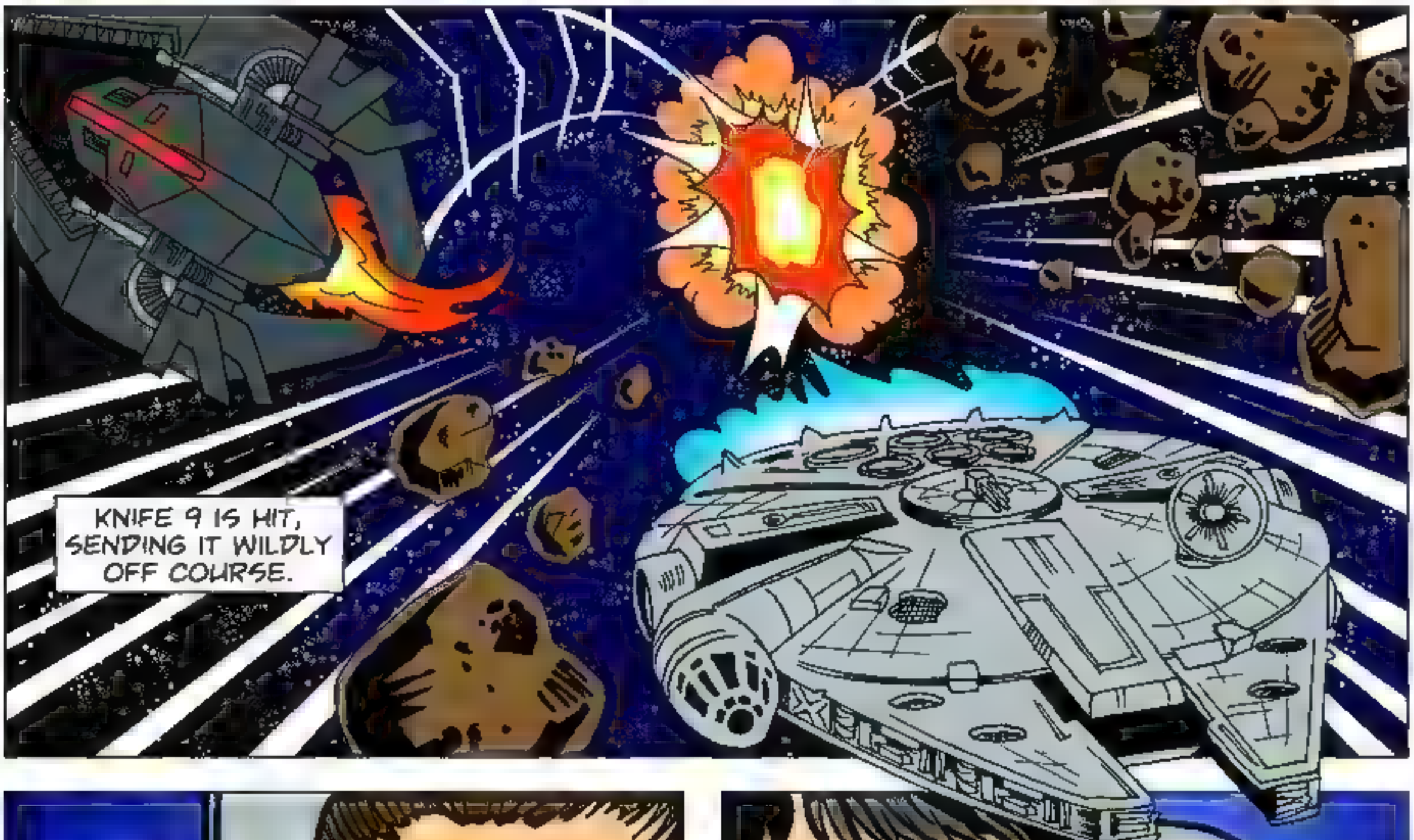
MY SHIP!

RAWRR!!*

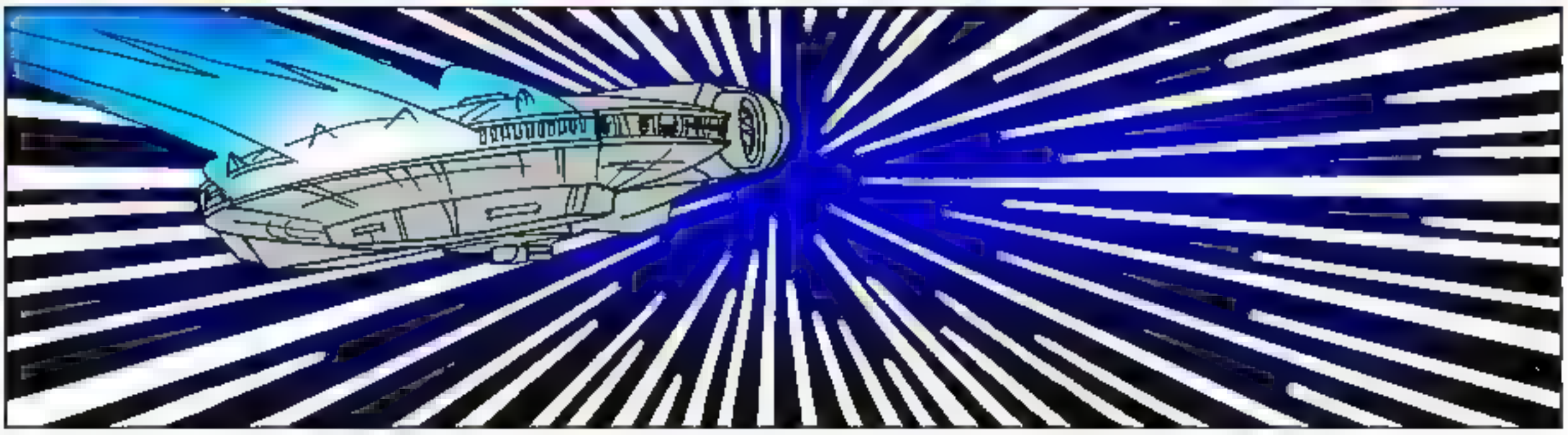
THE FALCON GETS CLOSE TO ONE OF THE PLANETARY FRAGMENTS AND BUZZES THE SURFACE, DODGING BLASTS AS IT FLIES UP THE FACE OF A JUNGLE MOUNTAIN.

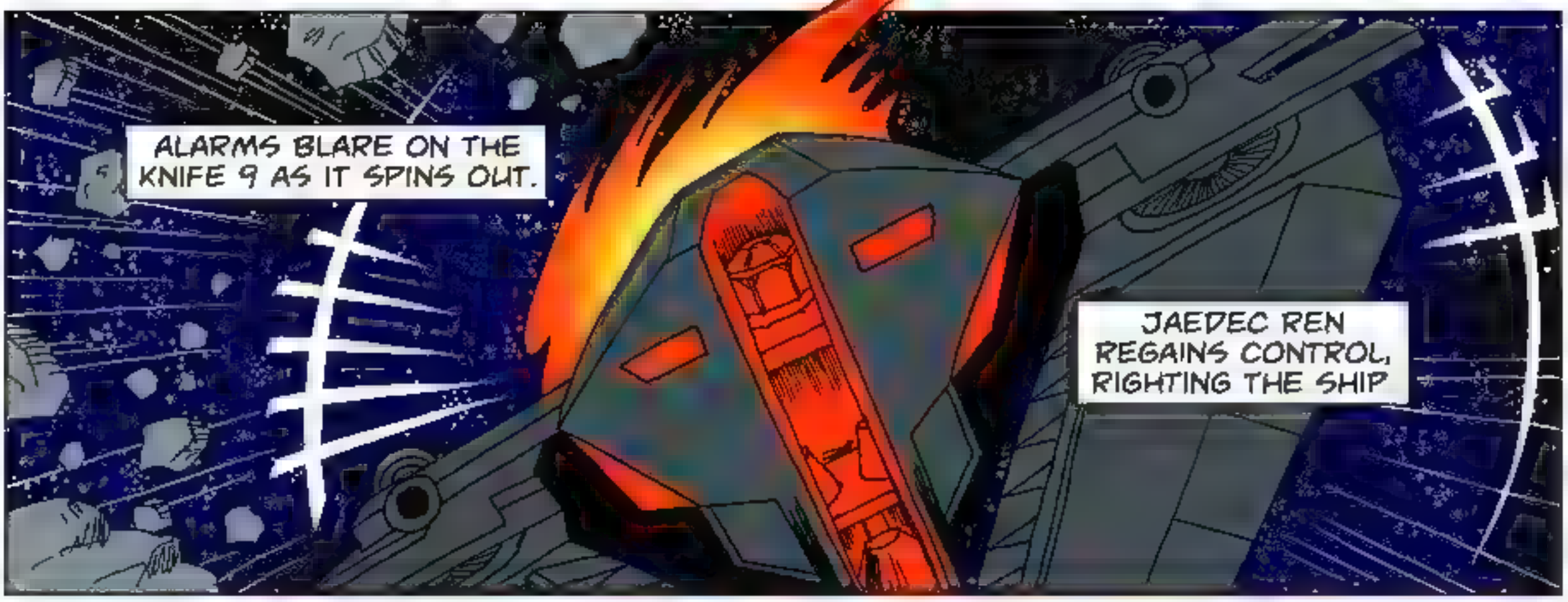
* YOU'RE ***BOTH*** WRONG!

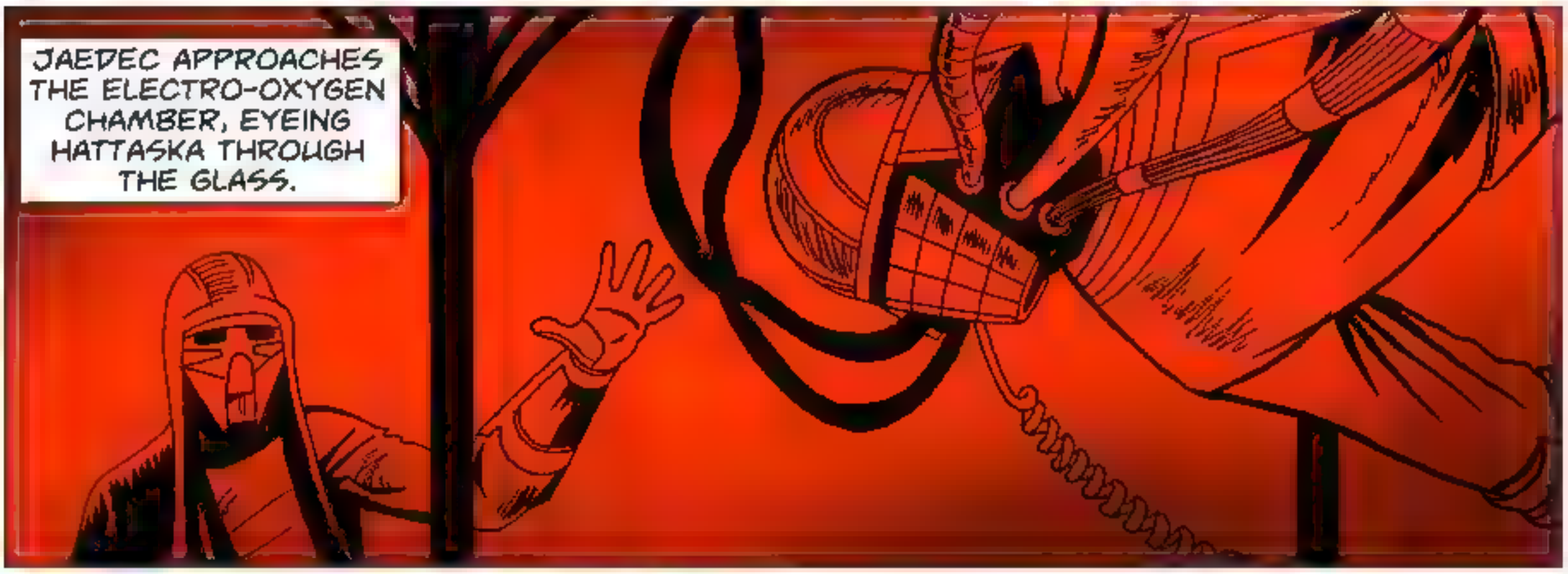

POE FIRES ON A MOUNTAIN PEAK, HANGING ABOVE THEM LIKE A STALACTITE.


KNIFE 9 IS HIT, SENDING IT WILDLY OFF COURSE.

WE'RE CLEAR!
PUNCH IT!

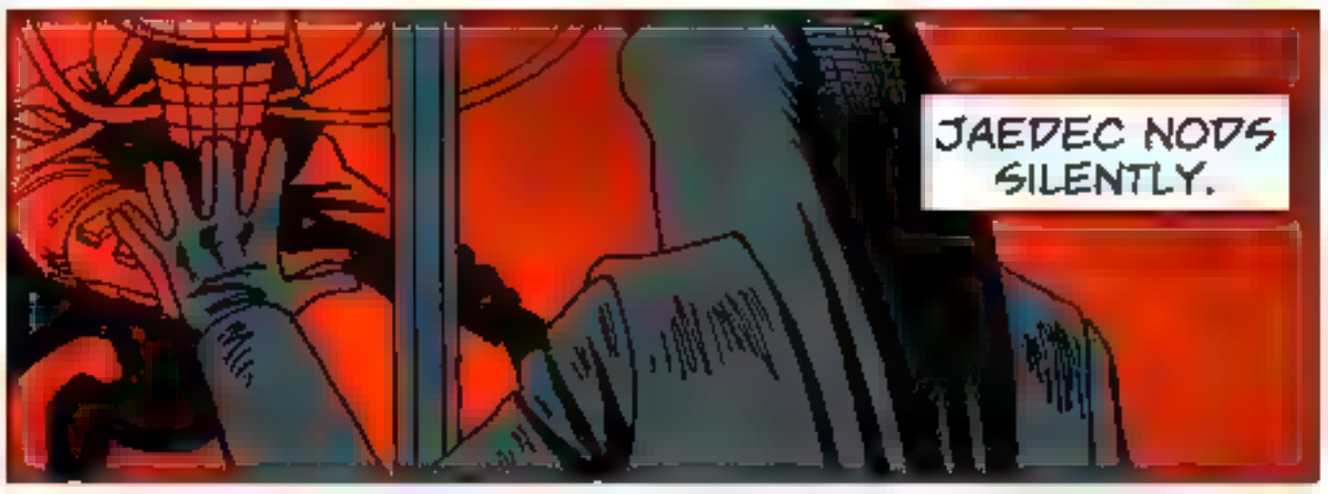



ALARMS BLARE ON THE KNIFE 9 AS IT SPINS OUT.
JAEDEC REN REGAINS CONTROL, RIGHTING THE SHIP


JAEDEC APPROACHES THE ELECTRO-OXYGEN CHAMBER, EYEING HATTASKA THROUGH THE GLASS.

SUDDENLY, HATTASKA PLACES HIS HAND FLAT ON THE GLASS AGAINST JAEDEC'S.

LORL AND OTT LOOK ON, WAITING FOR THE ANSWER.


JAEDEC NODS SILENTLY.

SET A COURSE FOR BONADAN.

REMNICORE.

KYLO'S TIE SILENCER RACES OVER A COLD, BLACK PLANET OF OBSIDIAN-LIKE TERRAIN, VEINED WITH SILVER FLOES OF WHITE LAVA.

HE LANDS AND APPROACHES AN ANCIENT MILITARY BATTLEMENT CONSUMED BY TIME.

WHATEVER HAPPENED HERE, IT ENDED CENTURIES AGO.

SKELETONS OF FALLEN SITH WARRIORS LITTER THE GROUND.

A REMINDER THAT WHILE JEDI LIVE ON, SITH BECOME DUST.

KYLO'S TRACKING BEACON FLASHES.

LIFEFORM DETECTED.

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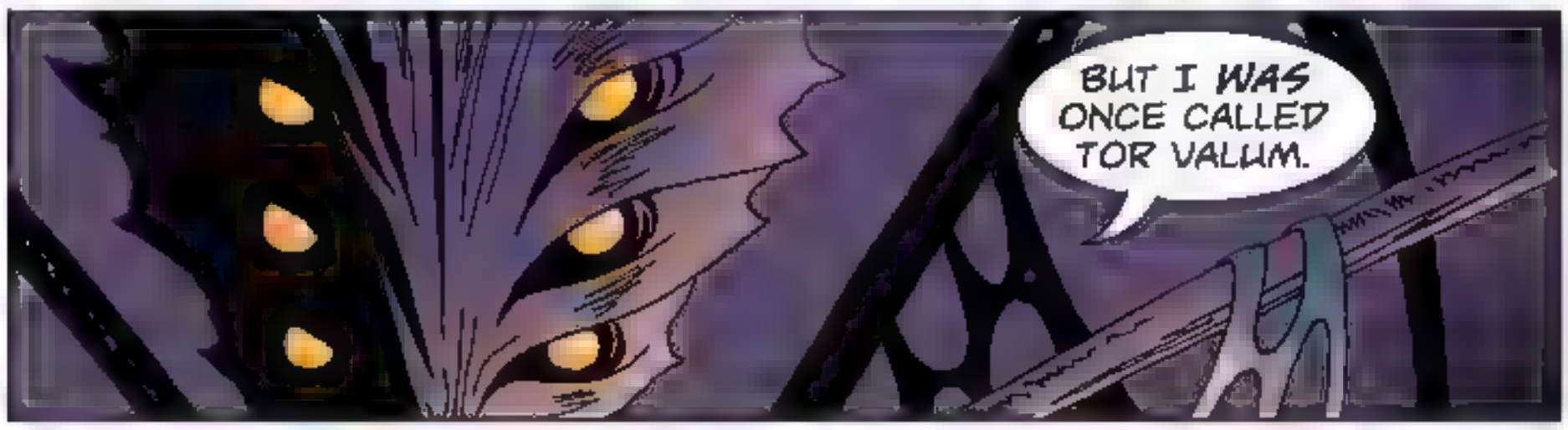
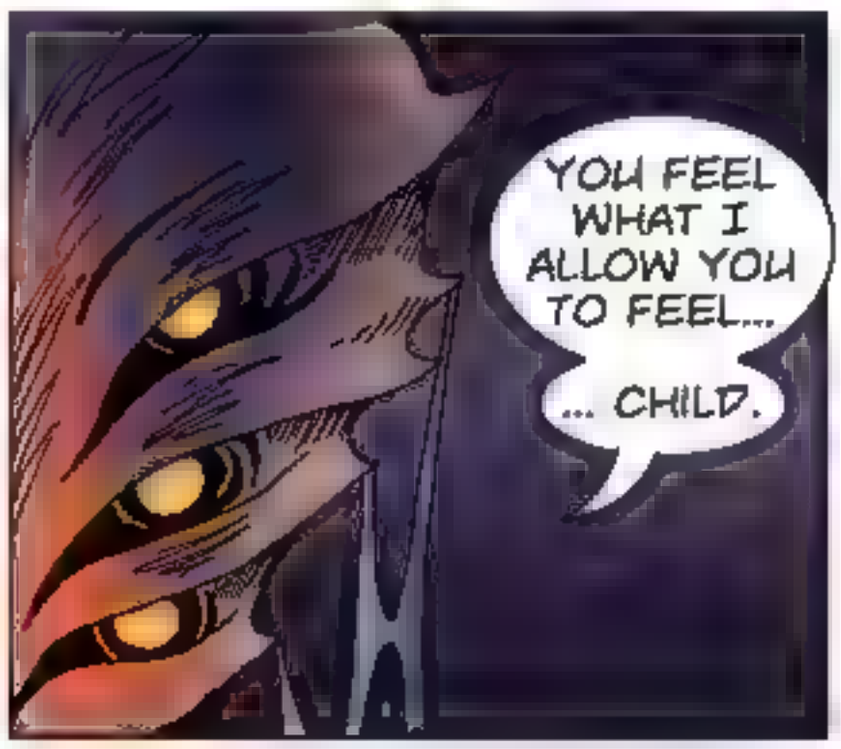


YOU TRAINED DARTH PLAGUEIS?
THAT NAME MEANS NOTHING TO ME.
DOES YOUR LIFE?
YOU THREATEN ME WITH DEATH. HOW AMUSING.

YOU'RE WEAK.
I FEEL NOTHING.


YOU FEEL WHAT I ALLOW YOU TO FEEL...
... CHILD.

REVEAL YOURSELF.

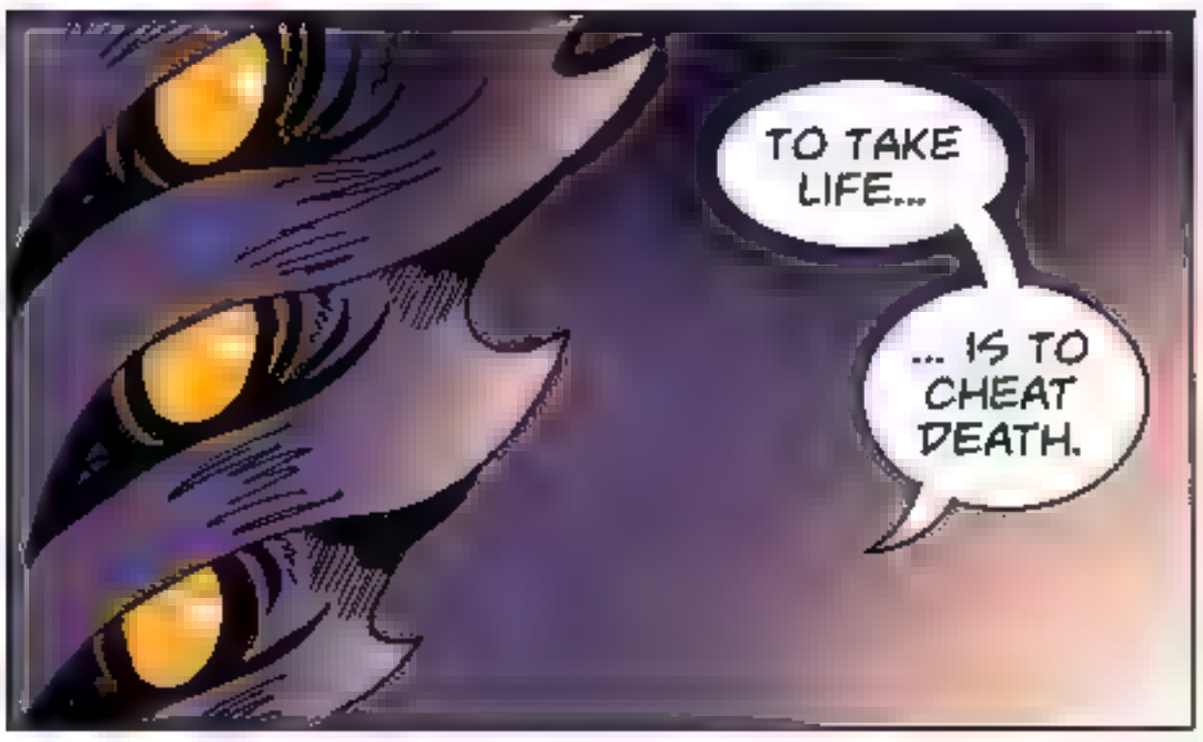
TOR VALUM APPEARS ODDLY ENTERTAINED BY KYLO'S VEINED, CORRUPTED FACE.
HMM. YOU WISH TO OBTAIN THE POWER OF THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE.
TAKE YOUR PLACE AMONG THE GODS OF MORTIS.
I DO.
TO RULE THE GALAXY WITHOUT ARMIES, WITHOUT STARSHIPS.
YES.
YET YOU FEAR THE FRAILTY OF YOUR VESSEL. YOU NEED THIS POWER.

THEN KNEEL BEFORE ME.
MIRACULOUSLY, KYLO KNEELS.

YOU CALL YOURSELF A SITH. BUT THE SITH ARE UNREPENTANT, REMORSELESS. YOU'RE HAUNTED BY THE PAST, YOUR VERY EXISTENCE.

I HAVE NO REGRETS.
YOU LIE.
UNTIL YOU SEVER YOURSELF FROM THE PAST, YOUR FATE WILL BE THE SAME AS THEIRS.

THE LIVING FORCE IS NOURISHMENT.
THE MORE ONE CONSUMES, THE STRONGER ONE BECOMES.


TO TAKE LIFE...
... IS TO CHEAT DEATH.

TEACH ME.

BONADAN.

THE FALCON DESCENDS INTO A VALLEY OF MOUNTAINS RISING OVER A BAY.

THE PLANET EXISTS IN PERMANENT SUNSET, LIT BY BUSTLING NIGHTMARKETS.

THE FALCON ALIGHTS ON A MULTI-LEVEL ARRAY, LIKE A TOWER OF LILY-PADS.

OUT IN THE NIGHTMARKETS, POE LEADS REY TO A MERCHANT SELLING JEWELRY AND SARI-LIKE ROBES.

COME WITNESS THE FROTHING EYE OF LOYYIL KARN!

HOW MUCH FOR THIS ONE?

REY TAKES OUT CREDITS TO PAY.

BUT THE MERCHANT CLOSES HER HAND AROUND THE MONEY.

THANK YOU.

REY'S COLORFUL SARI GIVES HER AN EXOTIC ELEGANCE WE'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE.

YOU LOOK LIKE A LOCAL IN THAT SARI.

YOU'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE?

WITH MY GRANDFATHER. I USED TO SAIL RIGHT OUT THERE ON THE BAY.

POE PAUSES...

WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER FROM YOUR CHILDHOOD?

MY FATHER AND I WOULD BUILD STAR-SHIPS OUT OF WOOD. THEY COULD FIT IN YOUR HAND. I REMEMBER LOVE. THAT'S WHY I WAITED FOR SO LONG. BUT I MUST HAVE IMAGINED IT.

THEY WERE NO ONE.

NO ONE IS NO ONE.

AS REY TAKES THAT IN, SHE SPOTS A TRIO OF MECHTROOPERS SCANNING THE CROWD.

MOVE ALONG.

SHE PULLS POE INTO A *KISS*, HIDING HIS FACE BEHIND HER HEADSCARF.

DID IT WORK?

I MEAN, I THINK SO.

SOON, THEY ENTER THE NAVIGATOR'S DEN.

EASY ON THE DETAILS. SHE DOESN'T HAVE TO KNOW WHO OR WHY. JUST WHAT.

ETHEREAL MUSIC PLAYS.

NOMI, AN ALIEN CHILD, SITS IN A CIRCULAR ROOM WITH A FLOOR OF MARBLES.

A COUPLE SITS BEFORE NOMI, ON THE BRINK OF DIVORCE.

A JEDI.

THE LAST.

NOMI NODS TO THE COUPLE.

GO.

COME. SIT. THE JEDI AND THE MAN.

LOOK, WE'RE IN A HURRY.

THE MAN WILL NOT SPEAK.

THE JEDI SEEKS A PLACE.

THE PLACE IS MORTIS.

YES. I SAW IT IN--

THE MOUTH OF THE JEDI STOPS AND THE MIND MAKES THE PICTURE.

THE FORCE FILLS THE JEDI AND REVEALS THE DESTINATION.

THE DESTINATION IS VERY OLD.

THE FIRST TO KNOW THE FORCE. THE FIRST WHERE THE GOOD WAS DONE.

AND THE EVIL, TOO.

THE MARBLES ON THE FLOOR FLOAT UP, MIMICKING PLANETS.

NOMI'S VOICE GROWS DISTANT AS REY FALLS DEEP INTO MEDITATION.

VISIONS OF MORTIS COME TO HER.

THERE THE TWO WILL MEET.

DRAWN TOGETHER BY THE FORCE.

THE DARK SIDE AND THE LIGHT.

THERE SHE WILL MAKE THE *SACRIFICE!*

TO BE CONTINUED!